

23 April 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:   
Associate General Counsel

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SUBJECT: Separation of Exemption from  
Classification Authority

1. With regard to Dick Tufaro's memorandum of March 19, 1973 on this subject, the following are my thoughts, admittedly off the top of my head, on the points raised.

2. We have actually had little difficulty in working within the framework of the Executive Order. The lack of difficulty has been because we have met with the delegation of exempting authority by defining with reasonable specificity those categories of information which should be exempted. The original decisions made by Mr. Helms and Mr. Karamessines are too broadly worded, calling as they do for the exemption of everything being sent overseas. This week I will be rewriting one for Mr. Colby to replace the Karamessines issue.

3. The only sampling I have done indicates that about 93% of our cables are being classified at the Secret level and that all cables are being exempted. This is obviously preposterous.

3. We now have about 500 odd individuals (some of them are quite normal) who have exempting authority. This is a fairly reasonable number but can stand some further paring. If we were to separate Top Secret from exempting authority I would think we could further reduce the number of our T. S. classifiers by something on the order of magnitude of 150. I have no suggestion for controls over authorized exempting officials. Perhaps the answer

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would be to publish something along the lines of [ ] document with an appendix giving concrete, specific examples of items at various classification levels and in various exemption categories.

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4. As we use classification guides:

- a. They are authorized by the appropriate operating official which may be the Director of an Office, a Deputy Director, or the Director of Central Intelligence.
- b. Such guides apply to employees who have classification authority.
- c. Essentially, there is no control over such classification guides except that I have copies of all such. That is more by happenstance than by design.
- d. With the exception of the [ ] the individual originating the document is identified on the "classified by" line. In the case of the [ ] classification handbook is shown as the authority.
- e. The answer is "yes." The entire purpose of the classification guides is to permit exemption to be made by people not having T. S classifying authority.
- f. We have four classification guides currently in existence.
- g. These are reviewed annually.

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/s/

[ ]  
Special Assistant for Information Control

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GFD:bec

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